

# MEMORANDUM

## Special Projects Section



**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**Through:** City Manager Charles Lawson  
**From:** Veterans' Memorial Ad-hoc Committee  
Staff Liaison, Mark Rogge  
**Subject:** Request from the City Council to honor the Milpitas Veterans Club  
**Date:** April 19, 2005

### BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005 the City Council directed staff to reconvene the Veterans' Memorial Ad-hoc Committee to consider ways to honor the members of the former Milpitas Veterans Club. The Committee met on March 30. Minutes of the meeting are attached.

The Milpitas Veterans Club was active in the community from its inception in 1948 until the group recently disbanded. The club provided opportunities for veterans to meet regularly for fellowship and to provide other services to the community. The Milpitas Veterans Club was instrumental in creating the Veterans' Memorial, which originally stood at the former City Hall on North Main Street and now rests at the Veterans' Memorial Park at the Civic Center.

### PROPOSAL

The Committee found that it would be fitting to honor the members of the Milpitas Veterans Club by further enhancing the Veterans' Memorial area with a "meditation bench" and associated plaque. The "meditation bench" would be placed near the memorial as shown in the attached diagram. This placement provides a dual use: it would be a welcome place for people to sit while viewing the memorial and contemplating their thoughts; during ceremonies, the bench could provide a place of honor to seat distinguished guests or honorees.

The plaque would read as follows:

**The Milpitas Community recognizes and honors the members of the Milpitas Veterans Club, who engaged in military service to their country and continued to serve their community after they returned home. They commemorated those who gave the ultimate sacrifice by creating this Veterans' Memorial.**

**[List of Milpitas Veterans Club Members]**

**May this memorial bench give us to pause to contemplate the people who we thank for the peace and freedom we enjoy.**

The plaque would be decorated with images of the American flag and the Missing In Action/Prisoner of War (MIA-POW) flag.

The Committee also requested the City Council issue a proclamation recognizing the Milpitas Veterans Club with wording similar to the proposed plaque, and issue commendations to honor the surviving members of the Milpitas Veterans Club with appropriate certificates at a City Council meeting prior to the next Memorial Day event.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Approve an addition of a bench and associated plaque at the Veterans' Memorial as described in the Committee Report
2. Issue a proclamation honoring the Milpitas Veterans Club
3. Present commendations at the May 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting honoring members of the Milpitas Veterans Club.
4. Approve a budget of \$6,000 for the above items.

*April 13, 2005*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Veterans' Memorial Ad-hoc Committee:

Denny Weisgerber

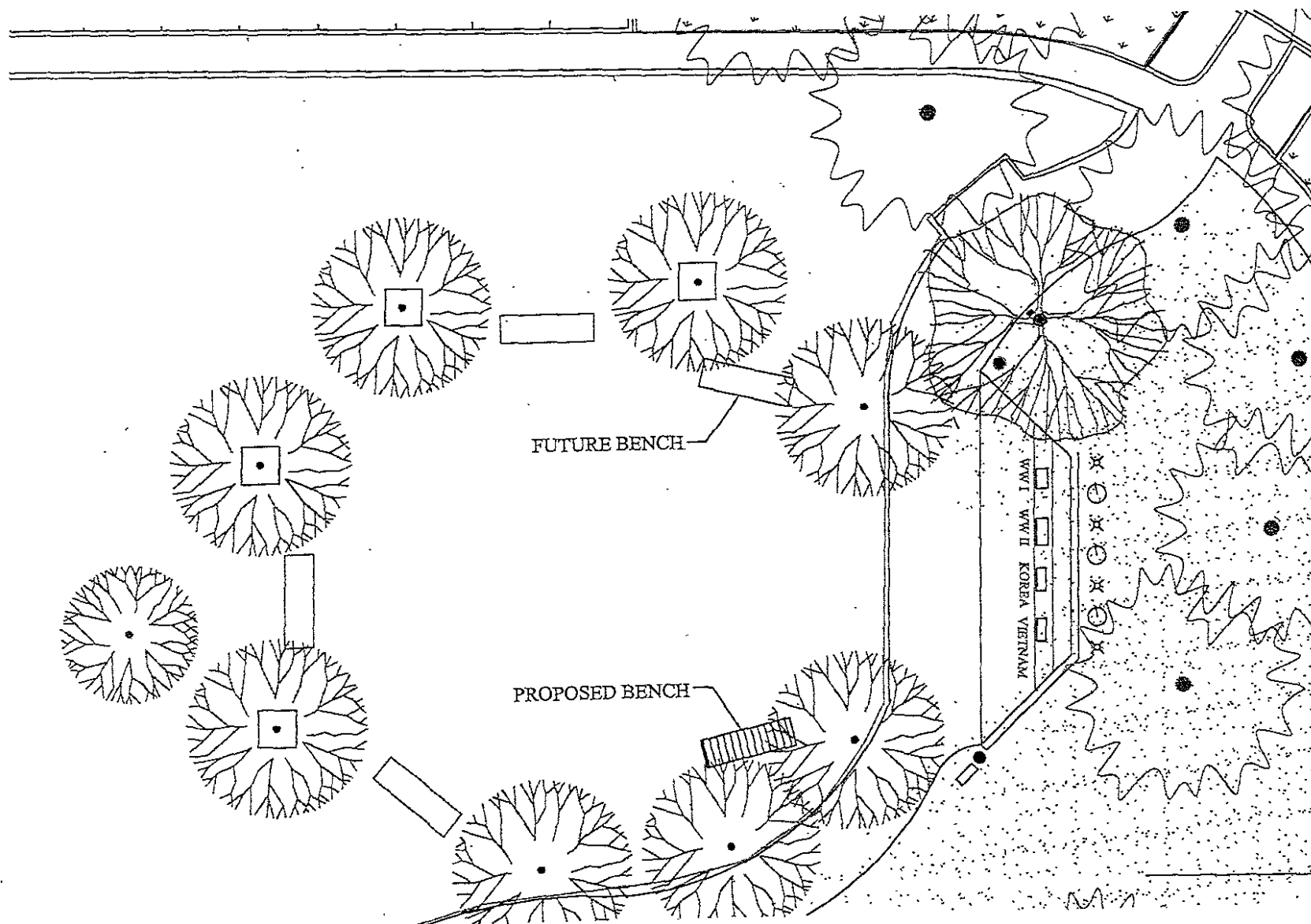
David Aberle

Lou Horyza

Ron Sambrano

cc: Louise Locki

Attachments: Diagram of Veterans' Memorial showing location of proposed bench  
Roster of Milpitas Veterans Club



VETERANS' MEMORIAL  
BENCH LAYOUT

NO SCALE



# MILPITAS VETERANS CLUB

## DECEASED MEMBERS – WIVES LIVING

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
<b>*Bettencourt, Joe</b> <i>Wife: Adeline</i>	Milpitas School District Grounds Maintenance; business enterprises <i>Business Owner</i>
<b>Castillo, Johnnie</b> <i>Wife: Helen</i>	Milpitas School District – Bus Driver <i>Teacher</i>
<b>Garcia, Frank</b> <i>Wife: Dolores</i>	Business Owner – Gas Station in Milpitas <i>Homemaker</i>
<b>Guerrero, Jake</b> <i>Wife: Josephine</i>	Postman – Milpitas <i>Vice-Post Mistress, Milpitas</i>
<b>Lopes, Lee</b> <i>Wife: Connie</i>	Educator -- Principal (teacher) <i>Realtor</i>
<b>*Madruga, Ray</b> <i>Wife: Marie</i>	Business Owner -- Madruga Iron Works <i>Bookkeeper -- Madruga Iron Works</i>
<b>Smith, Joe</b> <i>Wife: Doris</i>	N.A.S.A. -- Engineer, Inventor <i>Homemaker</i>

## DECEASED MEMBERS – WIVES ALSO DECEASED

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
<b>Cardoza, Tom</b> <i>Wife: Elsie</i>	Owner – Red & White Store, Milpitas <i>Owner – Red &amp; White Store, Milpitas</i>
<b>Henriques, Lawrence</b> <i>Wife: Genevieve</i>	Employee for General Electric (Retired Orchardist) <i>Homemaker</i>
<b>Moretti, Joe</b> <i>Wife: Mammie</i>	Apartment Building Owner <i>Beauty Shop Owner/Operator</i>
<b>*Rose, Alexander</b> <i>Wife: Cecilia</i>	Owner – Store & Gas Station <i>Homemaker</i>
<b>*Rose, Manuel</b>	Employee for Moffet Field Property Investor
<b>Silva, Kenneth</b> <i>Wife: Ruth</i>	Santa Clara County Employee <i>Homemaker</i>
<b>Werner, Les</b> <i>Wife: Millie</i>	Painter, in Milpitas <i>Homemaker</i>

\* Original Charter Member

**Veterans' Memorial ad hoc Committee**  
Wednesday, March 30, 2005.  
Committee Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Purpose: Requested by City Council on February 1, 2005 to honor Milpitas Veterans Club.
2. Invited:
  - Attendee were: Lou Horyza, Denny Weisgerber, Ron Sobrano, David Aberle, Mark Rogge, and Linda Sinclair
  - Ms. Louise Locki was unable to attend the meeting due to work. An email from Ms. Locki was read to the committee. Please see attached email.
3. Milpitas Veteran Club – Honor with plaque
  - The committee proposed to honor the Milpitas Veterans Club by dedicating a Meditation bench and plaque at the Memorial Day Ceremony.
  - The discussions were also to honor the Milpitas Veterans Club with a tree as well as a plaque and meditation bench.
  - A recognition and proclamation for the remaining members will be presented at the City Council meeting.
  - Mark Rogge will check into finding the meditation bench and getting the plaque
  - Ms. Locki is likely to have the information regarding the remaining six Milpitas Veterans Club members. Staff will follow up with her.
  - Mr. Rogge will write up the proposal and memo for the Committee review and comment. Once approval by the Committee, proposal and memo will be forward to City Council.
  - Another meeting will be set to go over the proposal if needed;
  - Meeting was moved at 1:25pm to the Veterans' Memorial Park at the Civic Center to discuss the layout of the Meditation bench and plaque.
4. Adjourn
  - Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.



## MILPITAS VETERANS CLUB

### CURRENT MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
<b>Bates, Ed</b> <i>Wife: Betty</i>	Superintendent of Schools (Teacher, Principal) <i>Teacher, Samuel Ayer School, Milpitas</i>
<b>Butero, Vince</b> <i>Wife: Jean</i>	Auto Body Shop, San Jose <i>Homemaker</i>
<b>*Henriques, Andrew</b> <i>Wife: Bernice</i>	Maintenance – Milpitas School District <i>Title Insurance Secretary</i>
<b>*Pimentel, Louis R.</b> <i>Wife: Ann</i>	Mechanic, Builder, Ironworker <i>Credit Manager, Teacher's Assistant</i>
<b>Pyle, John</b> <i>Wife: Barbara</i>	Airplane Pilot, Aircraft Sales Business <i>Wool Cannery – part owner</i>
<b>Ware, Bob</b> <i>Wife: Lee</i>	Store Owner of, The Importer Store <i>Beautician, Stylist</i>

December 29, 2004

Milpitas City Hall  
Armando Gomez, Vice Mayor of Milpitas  
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.  
Milpitas, CA 95035

Dear Mr. Armando Gomez,

We are sending this letter on the behalf of the Milpitas Veterans Club. This club started back in 1948, and will close for good at the end of this year. This club is a legacy and is full of history, not only in regards to the service men of World War II, but also the colorful citizens of Milpitas from an era long ago. Many of these club members help build Milpitas into what it is today. The members are now in their golden years, but regardless of that their spirit is as strong as ever.

This group has met every month since 1948. The funds that the Veterans held over the years came directly from the sale of the original club house that the five charter members built. They sold it when the overpass was built in town. Throughout the years, the "Vets" club would hold annual Bar-B-Ques, Christmas Parties, and various trips to Tahoe, Reno, Mendocino, Willits, Santa Cruz, and other places of interest that their chartered bus would take them. Each and every time, fun was had by all, and great memories were made. Many of the members worked, or owned businesses in the town of Milpitas. Over the years, some have moved, and some have passed on. There are currently only six remaining members (see below).

We are kindly requesting that you present this letter to the Board for consideration of a memorial. We would like to see if the city could appropriate funds to have a memorial put in place so that it will be forever known that this club thrived and existed in Milpitas. These six remaining American WWII Veterans would very much appreciate it if they can get their memorial placed next to the current one that stands behind the City Hall building. This would be a great honor to these Veteran members, their wives, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I will attach a copy of the recent article on this subject in the Milpitas Post.

**Here are the names of the remaining six members:**

Ed Bates, Vince Butero, Andrew Henriques, Louis R. Pimentel, John Pyle, and Bob Ware.

**Here are the names of all twenty members: ( \* Charter Members )**

Ed Bates, \*Joe Bettencourt, Vincent Butero, Tom Cardoza, John Castillo, Frank Garcia, Jake Guerrero, \*Andrew Henriques, Lawrence Henriques, Leland Lopes, \*Ray Madruga, Joe Moretti, \*Louis R. Pimentel, John Pyle, \*Alexander Rose, \*Manuel Rose, Kenneth Silva, Joe Smith, Bob Ware, Les Werner

It would be very much appreciated, and it would be an honor to have this memorial built while the six remaining members are alive and well enough to see this memorial come to life. If this memorial is given the okay by your board, our wish is that this group will always be remembered; which in turn will make them proud to be given the recognition and appreciation they deserve. I'm sure it would make these men and their families very happy and proud. You will also hear some great stories of importance coming out of some of these characters. The legacy of the "Vets" club and its members offers so much to the history of Milpitas, California, and the United States of America for years to come. Let's capture this moment in time while there is still an opportunity. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

The Milpitas Veterans Club Members:

*Louis R. Pimentel*  
*Vincent F. Butero* *Edward C. Bates*  
*Robert P. Ware* *John F. Pyle*  
*Andrew Henriques*

Contact: President, Louis R. Pimentel (408) 258-9969